

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/928,610

Applicant(s)

COOK, FRED S.

Examiner

Jinsong Hu

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 4/17/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7, 9-16, 19-26 and 30-32, now as 1-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears bellow. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as proved by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Stephen S. Roche (Reg. No. 52,176) on April 26, 2007.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 22-26 and 30-32 as follow:

Claim 22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A software product that includes a medium readable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon [[comprising]]:

control system software operational when executed by [[a]] the processor to switch between either a configuration mode or an operation mode, wherein responsive to switching to the configuration mode the control system is configured to receive a registration request comprising an off-hook signal from an unauthorized communication device, process the registration request to generate a query message for the unauthorized communication device that includes a request for a device identifier, and process a response message from the unauthorized communication device that

includes the device identifier to automatically authorize the communication device for use with the communication hub as a newly authorized communication device and to assign a virtual connection between the newly authorized communication device and a network system, and wherein responsive to switching to the operation mode the control system is configured to control an exchange of communications between a plurality of previously authorized communication devices, the newly authorized communication device, and the network system;

mode selection interface software operational when executed by the processor to receive an input from a user that selects one of either the configuration mode or the operation mode, and process the input to cause the control system to enter the selected one of the configuration mode or the operation mode; and

interface system software operational when executed by the processor to receive the registration request, provide the query message to the unauthorized communication device, provide the response message to the control system and exchange the communications between the plurality of previously registered communication devices, the newly registered communication device, and the network system; and

~~a software storage medium operational to store the control system software, the mode selection interface software and the interface system software.~~

Claim 23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The software product of claim 22 wherein the control system software is operational when executed by the processor to generate a registration complete message for the newly authorized communication device,

wherein the registration complete message causes the newly authorized communication device to indicate to the user that the newly authorized communication device is configured for use with the communication hub.

Claim 24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The software product of claim 23 wherein the interface system software is operational when executed by the processor to provide the registration complete message to the newly authorized communication device.

Claim 25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The software product of claim 22 wherein the control system software is operational when executed by the processor to cause the mode selection interface to indicate to the user that the newly authorized communication device is configured for use with the communication hub.

Claim 26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The software product of claim 22 wherein the control system software is operational when executed by the processor to record the newly authorized communication device in the communication hub as an allowed communication device.

Claim 30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The software product of claim 22 wherein the control system software is operational when executed by the processor to use the device identifier to identify communication requests made by the newly authorized communication device.

Claim 31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The software product of claim 22 wherein the newly authorized communication device is a wireless communication device.

Claim 32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The software product of claim 22 wherein the newly authorized communication device is a wireline communication device.

Reasons for allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's claimed invention distinguished over the prior art for the following reasons. The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references, either alone or in combination, discloses or renders obvious the method for operating a communication hub, the method comprising of receiving an input from a user that indicates a desired one of either a configuration mode or an operation mode; processing the input to switch to the desired one of the configuration mode or the operation mode; in response to switching to the configuration mode, receiving a registration request comprising an off-hook signal from an unauthorized communication device; in response to receiving the registration request, processing the registration request to generate a query message that includes a request for a device identifier for the unauthorized communication device; processing a response message from the unauthorized communication device that includes the device identifier to automatically authorize the unauthorized communication device for use with the communication hub as a newly authorized communication device and to assign a virtual connection

between the newly authorized communication device and a network system; and in response to switching to the operation mode, exchanging communications between a plurality of authorized communication devices, the newly authorized communication device, and the network system.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considering necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinsong Hu whose telephone number is (571) 272-3965. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

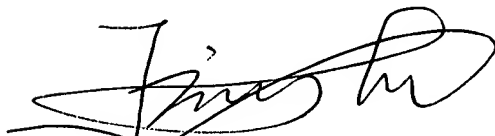
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jinsong Hu', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Jinsong Hu

April 27, 2007